

## Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 AF-08 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-02 INR-07

L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06

/067 W

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R 161450Z SEP 76

FM AMEMBASSY PARIS

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 5013

INFO AMEMBASSY BAMAKO

AMEMBASSY CONAKRY

AMEMBASSY ABIDJAN

AMEMBASSY DAKAR

AMEMBASSY LAGOS

AMEMBASSY KINSHASA

AMEMBASSY LIBREVILLE

AMEMBASSY ADDIS ABABA

AMEMBASSY YAOUNDE

AMEMBASSY PRETORIA

AMEMBASSY LUSAKA

AMEMBASSY DAR ES SALAAM

AMEMBASSY NAIROBI

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY BONN

AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS

C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 01 OF 02 PARIS 27033

E. O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR FR GV ML XA

SUBJECT: GISCARD TO VISIT GUINEA AND MALI

BEGIN UNCLASSIFIED

1. THE ELYSEE ANNOUNCED SEPT. 15 THAT PRESIDENT GISCARD  
D'ESTAING WILL VISIT MALI IN EARLY 1977 AND THAT HE  
HAS ACCEPTED AN INVITATION TO VISIT GUINEA, THE DATE TO  
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BE DECIDED LATER. THE PRESS INDICATES THAT THE TRIP TO

MALI WILL PROBABLY TAKE PLACE IN FEBRUARY AND TO GUINEA,  
NEXT AUGUST.

2. THE ANNOUNCEMENT OF THE ACCEPTANCE OF THE GUINEAN  
INVITATION WAS MADE AFTER A FORTY MINUTE MEETING BETWEEN  
GISCARD AND GUINEAN AMBASSADOR SEYDOU KEITA.  
THE COMMUNIQUE AFTER THEIR MEETING SAID THAT GISCARD  
HAD "REAFFIRMED THE READINESS OF THE FRENCH GOVERNMENT  
TO DEVELOP THE RELATIONS OF COOPERATION AND FRIENDSHIP  
HAPPILY RESTORED WITH GUINEA". GISCARD ALSO  
TOLD THE AMBASSADOR THAT FRANCE WOULD "UNDER NO CIR-  
CUMSTANCE SERVE AS A BASE FOR SUBVERSIVE ACTIONS AGAINST  
THE FRIENDLY GOVERNMENT OF GUINEA".

3. UPON LEAVING THE ELYSEE, KEITA TOLD THE PRESS THAT  
EVERYTHING IS GOING WELL BETWEEN FRANCE AND GUINEA.  
"FOR SOME TIME", HE SAID, "A NEW TENSION WAS ALMOST  
CREATED BETWEEN OUR TWO COUNTRIES AS A RESULT OF THE  
DISCOVERY OF A NEW STEP IN THE PERMANENT PLOT WHICH  
THE IMPERIALISTS NEVER STOP HATCHING AGAINST OUR  
COUNTRY. UPON HIS RETURN FROM VACATION IN AUGUST,  
PRESIDENT GISCARD D'ESTAING SPONTANEOUSLY SENT PRESIDENT  
SEKOU TOURE A MESSAGE TO REAFFIRM THE FRENCH DESIRE TO  
ESTABLISH A FRIENDLY, LOYAL AND HONEST COOPERATION  
BETWEEN OUR TWO COUNTRIES. PRESIDENT SEKOU REPLIED WITH  
A MESSAGE EXPRESSING THE SAME SENTIMENTS... WE ASK  
FRANCE NOT TO PERMIT IRRESPONSIBLE ELEMENTS BASED IN  
FRANCE TO TROUBLE OUR RELATIONS".

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R 161450Z SEP 76  
FM AMEMBASSY PARIS  
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 5014  
INFO AMEMBASSY BAMAKO  
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C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 02 OF 02 PARIS 27033

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4. COMMENT: WE UNDERSTAND THAT SEKOU'S REPLY DELIVERED BY KEITA ALSO CONTAINED THE NAMES OF A NUMBER OF GUINEAN EXILES WHOM THE FRENCH WERE ASKED TO EXPEL AS WELL AS THE COMPLAINT THAT FRANCE HAS NOT STOPPED THE PUBLICA-  
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TION OF ANTI-SEKOU TRACTS, WHICH CONTINUE TO APPEAR HERE DESPITE EARLIER FRENCH GOVERNMENT ASSURANCES TO SEKOU THAT AN EFFORT WOULD BE MADE TO BAN THEM. GISCARD'S ACCEPTANCE "IN PRINCIPLE" OF SEKOU'S INVITATION SHOWS A DESIRE ON BOTH SIDES TO MAINTAIN REASONABLY GOOD RELATIONS. IT ALSO CAN BE USED BY THE FRENCH AS EVIDENCE OF THEIR GOOD WILL TOWARD SEKOU DESPITE WHAT WILL PROBABLY BE A CONTINUING FRENCH POLICY NEITHER TO EXPEL GUINEAN EXILES NOR TO CLAMP DOWN ENTIRELY ON THEIR PROPAGANDISTIC AND OTHER ANTI-REGIME ACTIVITIES IN FRANCE. WHETHER THE VISIT WILL EVER TAKE PLACE IS, OF COURSE, ANOTHER QUESTION.

5. MORE SIGNIFICANTLY, THE ANNOUNCEMENT OF THE GUINEAN (AND TO A LESSER EXTENT, THE MAIIAN) VISIT PROVIDES FURTHER EVIDENCE THAT GISCARD HAS NOT ABANDONED HIS

POLICY OF TRYING TO BE FRIENDS WITH BOTH THE MODERATE AND RADICAL STATES IN AFRICA AND THE THIRD WORLD. WHILE FULLY PREPARED TO ASSIST FRANCE'S CLOSEST FRIENDS AS EVIDENCED BY HIS CONTINUING EFFORTS TO GIVE SUBSTANCE TO HIS PROPOSAL FOR A NEW AFRICAN DEVELOPMENT FUND, GISCARD WANTS ALSO TO REFURBISH HIS CREDENTIALS WITH AFRICAN "PROGRESSIVES" AND TO COUNTERACT SOME OF THE HARM DONE TO THE FRENCH IMAGE BY, INTER ALIA, THE COLOMBO NONALIGNED CALL FOR AN OIL EMBARGO. HE DOUBTLESS CONCEIVES OF THIS EFFORT AS A USEFUL ADJUNCT TO RECENT AMERICAN MOVES TO RESOLVE SOUTHERN AFRICAN PROBLEMS AND TO LIMIT SOVIET INFLUENCE IN AFRICA. GIVEN THIS PERSPECTIVE, WE BELIEVE SUCH INITIATIVES BY GISCARD SERVE AMERICAN, AS WELL AS FRENCH, INTERESTS.

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